

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 24 and ending with line 32 of page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

setting, as a display matrix, a partial matrix corresponding to a portion of the text matrix and capable of having elements of N by J characters at the maximum, where N represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the X direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq N \leq M$ and J represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the Y direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of ~~$1 \leq J \leq L$~~ $1 \leq J < L$;

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 1 and ending with line 10 of page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

display matrix-setting means for setting, as a display matrix, a partial matrix corresponding to a portion of the text matrix and capable of having elements of N by J characters at the maximum, where N represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the X direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq N \leq M$ and J represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the Y direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of ~~$1 \leq J \leq L$~~ $1 \leq J < L$;

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 16 and ending with line 25 of page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

a module for setting, as a display matrix, a partial matrix corresponding to a portion of the text matrix and capable of having elements of N by J characters at the maximum, where N represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the X direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq N \leq M$ and J represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the Y direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of ~~$1 \leq J \leq L$~~ $1 \leq J \leq L$;

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 10 of page 7 and ending with line 12 of page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

According to this character processing method and apparatus and storage medium, as a text matrix, there is set a matrix which is capable of having elements of M by L characters which are arbitrary at the maximum, where M represents a number of characters which can be arranged in an X direction as one of a row direction and a column direction in the matrix and is defined as an integer equal to or larger than 1 and L represents a number of characters which can be arranged in a Y direction as another of the row direction and the column direction and is defined as an integer equal to or larger than 2. Text data representative of each character contained in the text matrix is stored in a manner correlated with a position of the character in the text matrix. As a display matrix, there is set a partial matrix corresponding to a portion of the text matrix and capable of having elements of N by J characters at the maximum, where N represents a number of characters which

can be arranged in the X direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq N \leq M$ and J represents a number of characters which can be arranged in the Y direction and is defined as an integer satisfying the relationship of ~~$1 \leq J \leq L$~~ $1 \leq J < L$. An image of each character contained in the display matrix is displayed in a manner correlated with a position of the character in the display matrix, based on the text data of the character. As a k-th candidate processing matrix, there is set an arbitrary k-th one, where $k = 1, 2, 3, \dots$ or L, of L partial matrices of the text matrix arranged in the Y direction as first to L-th candidate processing matrices each of which is capable of having one character in the Y direction and M characters at the maximum in the X direction. One of the L candidate processing matrices is set as a processing matrix, and then characters contained in the processing matrix are determined as processing characters.

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 13 and ending with line 25 of page 8 with the following amended paragraph:

To sum up, assuming that M is an integer satisfying the relationship of $M \geq 1$, L an integer satisfying the relationship of $L \geq 2$, N an integer $1 \leq N \leq M$, J an integer ~~$1 \leq J \leq L$~~ $1 \leq J < L$, and K an integer $1 \leq K \leq L$, there are set a text matrix having elements of M (in the X direction) by L (in the Y direction) desired (text) characters at the maximum, a display matrix which is a partial matrix of the text matrix and having elements of N (in the X direction) by J (in the Y direction) characters at the maximum, and a k-th candidate processing matrix having elements of M (in the X direction) x 1 (in the Y direction) characters at the maximum.

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 20 of page 32 and ending with line 3 of page 33 with the following amended paragraph:

Further, in the above case, an area (hereinafter referred to as "the text display area") DA storing text data (as a display object) to be displayed on the edit screen (more specifically, the display screen 41 of the display 4) corresponds to a so-called partial matrix within the text edit area EA which can be represented by the image of the text matrix EM. More specifically, assuming that N (integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq N \leq M$) letters (characters) can be displayed in the X direction on the display screen 41, and J (integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq J \leq L$) letters (characters) can be displayed in the Y direction on the same, the text display area DA corresponds to a matrix (hereinafter referred to as "the display matrix") which can contain elements of N by J characters at the maximum.

Please replace the paragraph beginning with line 4 and ending with line 27 of page 40 with the following amended paragraph:

As described above, according to the character processing method employed in the tape printing apparatus 1, first, assuming that M is an integer satisfying the relationship of $M \geq 1$, L an integer satisfying the relationship of $L \geq 2$, N an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq N \leq M$, and J an integer satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq J \leq L$, and that k is an arbitrary number indicative of a position in sequence and satisfying the relationship of $1 \leq k \leq L$, as described hereinbefore with reference to FIG. 7, the text matrix EM having M (in the X direction) by L (in the Y direction) desired (text) characters at the maximum as elements thereof and the corresponding text edit area EA (see FIGS. 7, 12), the display matrix DM having N

(in the X direction) by J (in the Y direction) (display object) characters at the maximum as elements thereof and the corresponding text display area DA (see FIGS. 17 to 20), and the k-th ($k = 1$ to L) candidate processing matrix PM having M (in the X direction) by 1 (in the Y direction) (k-th processing candidate) characters at the maximum as elements thereof and the corresponding k-th candidate processing area PA (k) (see FIGS. 12 to 15) are set as matrices and areas corresponding thereto, respectively.

On page 67 of the specification, please replace the abstract with the amended abstract shown in the attachment hereto as page 20.